1910. 1910.

Borough of Faversham.

Annual Reports

— OF —

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health, and

TOM GRIME, A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st Dec., 1910.

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FAVERSHAM

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for Year, 1910.

I beg to submit to the Authority my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Faversham, during the year, 1910.

STATISTICS OF BIRTHS & DEATHS.

With regard to this, I must premise that my estimate as to the population of the Borough is not to be considered more than an approximate one, as so many changes have taken place in the ten years since the last census: as this is the basis on which all birth-rates and death rates are calculated, it may well be that the result of the census, now to be taken, will materially alter the figures I am now giving. I have made as careful an estimate as possible and also all the usual corrections necessary to make the real and true death-rate as opposed to the apparent or registered one.

The number of births registered in the Borough was 252, viz., males 144, females 108; of these 25 were in the parish of Preston Within. This is an increase of 17 on the previous year and exactly the same number as in 1908; this gives a birth-rate of 20·4 per 1,000 of estimated population. The average birth-rate for the last ten years is 22·9 per 1,000. You will also note the large preponderance of male births which is somewhat unusual.

The number of deaths registered as occurring in the Borough is 127, much below the average, which is 138. This gives an apparent death-rate of 10·3 per 1000, but to get a true or corrected death-rate, we must add to this some deaths occurring outside the district. First of all there are 18 deaths of old people, formerly belonging to Faversham, that occurred in the Union Infirmary during the year; there is also an unusual feature, viz., 3 deaths in the Borough Isolation

Hospital at Kennaways, which have also to be added to the total. Against these we have to subtract 3 deaths occurring in the Cottage Hospital of persons residing outside the Borough; after these corrections have been applied we get a net total of 145 deaths, giving a true death-rate of 11·7 per 1000, as against 10·3 in 1909. Although this is an increase it is still well below the average for the last ten years, which works out at 12·7 per 1000. In a large measure the increase is due to an increase in the deaths of old people of 65 and upwards, of which there were 70, as against 58 in 1909, an increase of 12 under this heading alone.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one-year-old was 21, giving a death-rate of 83·3 per 1000 births registered. In 1910 there were 18 deaths, giving a rate of 76·5 per 1000 births, a small increase, but very much below the average rate, which is 120·1 for the last ten years. The last 3 or 4 years have shewn a much lowered infantile death-rate, owing, in great measure, to the absence of any epidemic of diarrhœal disease, possibly depending, among other causes, on the absence of any continued spells of high temperature during the summer. Only one death occurred from this class of complaint and in the previous year 4 only. One infant died from measles, one from whooping cough, and four from tuberculous diseases; these are the only causes needing special mention.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The actual causes of death as shewn in the tables, with one or two exceptions, do not show any very great variance in numbers from the average.

There were 13 deaths in 1910, due to zymotic disease, exactly the same number as in 1909, only differently distributed, also one death from puerperal fever.

The 3 deaths from typhoid occurred in the Isolation Hospital.

The actual causes were :—

	1910	1909
Measles	1 ...	2
Whooping Cough ...	3 ...	0
Diphtheria	0 ...	2
Influenza	5 ...	4
Diarrhœal Diseases ...	1 ...	4
Erysipelas	0 ...	1
Scarlet Fever ...	0 ...	0
Enteric Fever ...	3 ...	0

The other causes of death shewing any special variation are phthisis and tubercular disease, which have increased from 7 to 15, heart diseases from 12 to 20, and cancerous diseases have decreased from 10 to 6. Respiratory diseases shew a slight increase. Two deaths occurred from accidents and there was one suicide.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past year we have had two mild but rather extensive epidemics. In the very early part of the year, one of measles, especially among the elementary school children; this was dealt with by exclusion of scholars and school closure and gradually passed away, only being responsible for one death, so that the type was a very mild one. In a later part of the year whooping cough appeared and became prevalent in the same way. This has gradually passed away as far as the schools are concerned but cannot be said to be quite extinct; 3 deaths are registered as due to this. Influenza appeared in the latter part of the winter, not as an epidemic of severe type, but sufficient to complicate other diseases and carry off many old and enfeebled people. The number of cases of notifiable infectious disease reported to me during the year was exceptionally small, being only 41 as against 131 in the previous year. This is the smallest number since the Notification Act came in force. Of these cases 2 were from Preston Within. 30 of the total number were removed to the Isolation Hospital as against 82 in 1909.

	Notified.		Removed.	
	1910	1909	1910	1909
Diphtheria ...	12	30	9	7
Erysipelas ...	7	8	1	0
Scarlet Fever ...	15	91	15	74
Enteric Fever ...	6	2	5	1
Puerperal Fever ...	1	0	0	0

It will be noted that the number of scarlet fever cases was very small and that every one was removed to Hospital. Diphtheria was also much reduced. The only serious point is the increase of enteric fever cases. Three of these occurred in one family which we had strong suspicion were caused by eating infected shell fish, which, however, were not oysters and were not caught in Faversham Creek. The other 3 cases were sporadic ones and inquiry could not discover any special cause for them, or any connection between the different cases; unfortunately three of the severest cases died.

The Small Pox Hospital at Luddenham is still maintained. A caretaker is in residence and patients could be received at any time without delay. There are some necessary paintings and repairs which should be done without delay, or the value of the property will seriously deteriorate, and greater expense be necessary in the future; it has not been found necessary to admit any patients there during the past year.

In every case of infectious disease enquiry as to source of infection has been made and every effort made to prevent additional cases arising. Thorough disinfection has been carried out after recovery at home or removal to Hospital. Disinfection has also been carried out in houses where death from pulmonary tuberculosis has happened.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Public Water supply of the Borough remains as before viz., from deep wells in the chalk, outside the Borough boundary above the town, and in a situation not likely to be in risk of contamination. It has been analysed during the year and found to be of good quality, although the degree of hardness is rather high. The quantity has also been quite satisfactory.

During the year samples of water from public and private wells in the Borough, especially from premises on which cases of infectious disease have been notified to exist, have been sent for analysis; in most cases the reports on these have been satisfactory. One case proved unsatisfactory, and the well has been closed and a supply of water laid on from the mains.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected and the bye-laws enforced. They have all been kept in a cleanly condition and sufficient ventilation enforced. There are 4 in number, 3 of them being on licensed premises. 5 notices have been served during the year for various defects in connection with them and all have been complied with.

MILK.

There are, in the Borough, 27 premises coming under the head of Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops; these have all been regularly inspected at different times. The conditions under which milk is stored are, as a whole, satisfactory. In the small shops where milk is sold from the counter among

a large variety of other articles, clean or otherwise, sufficient attention is not given, in many cases, to keeping the milk vessel well covered ; special cautions have been issued on this point. No special action has been taken as regards the question of tuberculous milk. Of course, any obviously unhealthy cows are noted when inspecting cowsheds and action taken as required. Seven samples of new milk were sent for analysis during the year, and in three cases it was found necessary to caution the vendors as it was not up to standard.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are ten slaughterhouses in use in the Borough and they have been regularly inspected at all times ; notices have been served in six cases to ensure obedience to the Bye-laws. The markets for the sale of stock have also been attended and notice taken of any diseased or unhealthy animals sold. No tuberculous carcases have been discovered.

One seizure of unsound food has taken place during the year, viz., a quantity of mackerel exposed for sale, which was condemned and ordered to be destroyed.

The bakehouses have also been inspected and kept up to proper condition. There is only one Underground Bakehouse in the Borough.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two of these in the Borough—Fellmonger and Fatmelter ; the later has premises in the centre of the Borough and the effluvia are a great nuisance. However, we have been able, during the year, to make some improvements in the arrangements which ought to give much better results in future. There are no Bye-laws for the regulation of these trades.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, 208 houses have been inspected and the results considered by the Health Committee. Numerous defects have been pointed out, as was only to be expected, in the older parts of the town ; these have been, in most cases, remedied. A more detailed report of this work is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

FACTORY & WOKSHOP ACTS.

Under these Acts the following work has been done during the year,

		Inspections.	Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ...	...	77	1	0
Workshops	...	368	6	0
Workplaces	...	3	0	0
		448	7	0

There are 124 premises in the Borough which are on the Register as Workshops.

The occupations may be classified as follows :—

Dressmaking	Basketmaking
Millinery	Bakehouses
Tailoring	Breweries
Cabinet making	Printers
Umbrella ,,	Wheelwrights
Harness ,,	Monumental Masons
Boot ,,	Rag sorting
Sail ,,	Wool ,,
Cycle repairers	Saddlers
&c.	&c.

In three cases abstracts of Factory Acts were not affixed as required ; on request of Sanitary Inspector these have been remedied.

The number of defects found was 7, all of which were remedied without prosecution ; these included one case of defective ventilation and one of overcrowding.

Eight lists of outworkers have been sent in during the year and 32 inspections made of outworkers' premises ; they are all occupied in the making of wearing apparel. No case of infectious disease has been notified as occurring on any of these premises.

SEWERAGE.

During the year plans have been drawn up and contracts entered into for a complete re-organisation of the Sewage System of the Borough, in consequence of the order of the Court in connection with the question of the discharge of untreated sewage into the creek, and consequent pollution of shellfish. These involve the relaying of several of the main sewers, the cutting off of the outfalls into the creek, the provision of a pumping station to lift the sewage from the low-

lying parts of the town, the purchase of land and provision of sewage works for treating all the sewage and providing a satisfactory effluent. Many of the present main sewers are quite satisfactory and efficient; on the other hand, some that were put down many years ago will, necessarily, be replaced and improved. The present sewers are well ventilated by shafts and give rise to no nuisance.

The majority of the houses in the Borough have fresh water closets connected with the sewers.

Number of Houses in Borough	2833	
,, ,, Freshwater Closets	2428	about
,, ,, Privies (moveable receptacles)	22	
,, ,, ,, (fixed ,,)	6	

During the past year there were no conversions from privies to water closets.

The street scavenging and watering is done satisfactorily by the Authority themselves.

SCHOOLS.

During the year certain of the infant departments of the Public Elementary Schools have been ordered to be temporarily closed for infectious disease, as already mentioned in this report. Previous to closing frequent visits to the schools were made by myself and suspicious cases excluded from attendance. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools are satisfactory. During the holidays, and after special closure, the rooms have all been disinfected and specially cleaned.

Medical Inspection of all children entering and leaving the schools has been regularly carried out. 48 attendances were made by me at the schools for this purpose and 528 children medically examined and reported on. Of these 86 were found to be suffering from serious defects requiring immediate medical or dental treatment, many more from slight departures from the normal; the largest number was due to errors of refraction. In all these cases parents were informed and urged to take immediate steps for remedying them; in necessary cases directions were also given to the teachers. The attendance of parents at the examination is very good, and I hope they are appreciating the value and advantages of it to themselves and their children, though, I fear, many of the defects pointed out are allowed to remain—in some cases from poverty and in many from indifference.

The detailed results of this work will be found in my report as School Medical Officer.

INSPECTION

During the year I have made two systematic inspections of the whole district, besides visits at various times to different premises as occasion arises.

Factories and Workshops	106
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops ...	32
Slaughter Houses	22
Common Lodging Houses	14
Stables, Mews, &c.	11
Miscellaneous	35
Total ...	220

Much of the work mentioned in this report is more fully detailed in the report of the Sanitary Inspector. The Vital Statistics are also more amply given in the usual tables which accompany this report.

I beg to remain,

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

January 30th, 1911.

Borough of Faversham.

Report of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ending 31st Dec., 1910.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of placing before you a report of the work executed in your Health Department during the past year.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

Premises inspected and re-inspected ...	1824
House to House inspections	208
Total ...	2032
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops inspections	189
Common Lodging Houses inspections ...	19
Slaughter Houses inspections	480
Factory and Workshops inspections ...	452
Out-workers Premises inspections	21
Complaints received	33
Intimation Notices served	235
Statutory Notices served	17
Cases of Infectious Disease reported ...	41
,, ,, ,, removed to Hospital	29
Rooms disinfected	41
Nuisances abated	339

Particulars of work carried out in the Abatement of Nuisances.

New Drains laid	22
Drains repaired	14
,, ventilated	9
,, unstopped and cleansed	15
New Water Closet Basins provided... ...	21
Filthy Water Closet Basins cleansed ...	22
Flushing Cisterns repaired	14
New Flushing Cisterns provided	11

Defective Roofs and Gutters repaired ...	45
Accumulation of Manure and Filth removed ...	16
Dirty Premises cleansed	25
Nuisances from Animals abated	9
Abatement of Filth thrown on the streets ...	6
Overcrowding	4
Premises repaired	16
Concrete Floors laid	4
Vans inspected	32
Smoke observations taken...	4
New Sinks provided	22
New Ashbins provided	16
Yards re-paved	12

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

During the past year 208 houses in the Borough have been inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, with the following results :—

Defective Roofs	28
Damp Walls	17
Defective and Choked Gutters	24
Dirty Walls and Ceilings	18
Defective Floors	6
Defective Fireplaces	4
Insufficient Lighting	5
Absence of Sink	22
Defective and Leaky Sinks	9
Water Closet Basins broken	6
Choked Water Closets	4
W.C. Cisterns out of order...	6
Accumulations of Rubbish on the premises ...	5
Animals kept in contravention of the Bye-laws	6
Unpaved yards	11
Defective Sink Wastes	2
Defective Drains...	6
Miscellaneous repairs	14

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are ten slaughter houses in use in the Borough, frequent inspection are made to each of them, and notices have been served for the removal of nuisances as follows :—

Accumulations of Offal	3
Stopped Drains	2
Notice to Cleanse and Limewash	1

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are four Common Lodging Houses, and these are inspected at all times. During the past year notices have been served for :—

Defective Water Closets	2
Defective Drains...	1
Insufficient Ashbin	1
Defective Paving in Yard	1

The notices were complied with.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The Register has been brought up-to-date, and the whole of the premises have been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and myself, and the following nuisances observed :—

Overcrowding	1
Limewashing	2
Urinial and Water Closet to cleanse ...	3
Insufficient Ventilation	1

The notices were complied with.

Home Work Lists have been sent out and returned twice during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

There are 27 persons on the Register, and the whole of the premises have been inspected at different times during the year by the Medical Officer of Health and myself.

In two cases it was found necessary to issue a caution to the purveyor as to the covering of the utensil used for the storage of the milk.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Of these there are two, namely, Fatmelter and Fellmonger. Bitter complaints were made respecting the effluvium emitted from the former during the early part of the year, and notice was given to abate the nuisance complained of. The works have now received attention with good results.

WATER SAMPLES

Eight samples of water from wells in the district have been obtained for analysis, the results, with the exception of one sample proved satisfactory. In the case of the other the well was closed and the Company's water laid on the premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

In this branch of the department 7 samples of new milk were purchased and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst. Four of the samples were of a genuine character, and 3 were of a decidely poor character, the milk having been brought down to the limit prescribed by the Board of Agriculture. The vendors were, in each case, cautioned.

UNSOUND FOOD.

During the year one seizure of unsound food has taken place, namely, a quantity of mackerel, which were exposed for sale in the streets. The mackerel were seized and a Magistrate's Order obtained for the destruction of the same, and the vendors were ordered to be prosecuted by the Council.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 41 rooms have been disinfected after the removal or recovery of the patients suffering from the disease. The Council and District Schools have also been disinfected during the holidays.

In concluding my report I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support accorded me in executing my duties, and also to the Medical Officer of Health, Town Clerk, and the Borough Surveyor, for their help and advice in carrying out my duties during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

T. GRIME,

Inspector of Nuisances.